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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Enrichment: Inauguration of the Georges Besse II plant**

**Paris, December 14, 2010**

More than 100 customers from 14 countries joined Anne Lauvergeon, CEO of AREVA, for today's inauguration of the group's new Georges Besse II enrichment plant.

All eyes were on the first container of uranium as it entered the plant, marking a decisive step in this major construction project. The teams will now be concentrating on increasing the plant's production capacity by adding further modules. Full capacity is expected in 2016, two years ahead of schedule.

*"This plant will enhance AREVA's position as a major player on the world's enrichment market, on which it has a share of almost 25%", said Anne Lauvergeon.*

The Georges Besse II plant is located on the Tricastin nuclear site in Southern France. It will have a production capacity of 7.5 million SWU (Separative Work Units), which could be increased to 11 million SWU. The AREVA group's new enrichment plant will use state-of-the-art centrifugation technology which has the advantage of requiring fifty times less electricity than the gaseous diffusion process currently used in France.

With a price tag of almost three billion euros, the George Besse II plant is one of the largest industrial investment projects currently underway in France.

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AREVA supplies solutions for carbon-free power generation. Its expertise and know-how in this field are setting the standard, and its responsible development is anchored in a process of continuous improvement. As the global nuclear industry leader, AREVA's unique integrated offer to utilities covers every stage of the fuel cycle, nuclear reactor design and construction, and related services. The group is also expanding considerably in renewable energies – wind, solar, bioenergies, hydrogen and storage – to be one of the top three in this sector worldwide in 2012. Every day, AREVA's 48,000 employees cultivate the synergies between these two major carbon-free offers, helping to supply safer, cleaner and more economical energy to the greatest number of people.